(b) India has been trying to garner support of other developing and like minded group of countries for preventing inclusion of this linkage between Trade and Labour Standards in the future work programme of the WTO. India has also been taking the stand that International Labour Organisation (ILO) is the right forum for discussion on issues relating to Labour Standards.

(c) International Labour Standards, espescially the ILO Core Conventions have greatly influenced the enactment of labour laws in India. Labour Laws are enforced through inspections by the Central and State Government machinery. The Government will continue their efforts for effective implementation of Labour laws to protect the interest of the labour.

Computation of Rate of Industrial Production

†*146. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to include the production of 543 items to determine the rate of index of industrial production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that so far 342 items were included to determine the rate of the index of industrial production; and

(d) if so, what is the reason for including these new items and the names of these items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is a monthly index compiled and released by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) to measure changes in the volume of production in physical terms. In order to accurately reflect the growth rate in the industrial sector, the base period of the index has been changed from time to time to reflect the changing structure of the industrial economy. The latest revision has made the base year 1993-94 from the earlier base year 1980-81. The revised indices were released on 27th May, 1998.

The revision of the coverage of items and industries as well as the technique of construction has changed. Consequently, 543 items have been included compared to 352 items in the earlier IIP (Base 1980-81).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In the revised series of IIP with the base 1993-94, the items were selected on the basis of the criteria that each item so selected should account for at least Rs. 80 crore of Gross Value of Output (GVO) at the overall manufacturing level and Gross Value Added (GVA) of Rs. 20 crore at the ultimate digit level of NIC. The criteria were applied flexibly in the case of industry groups which were not adequately represented. Therefore, items of importance are included and unimportant items are dropped in the new item basket. The list of new item groups alongwith the corresponding individual items included in the revised series of IIP is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 36]

HUDCO Loan for Development Work in Urban Areas

*147. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount made available by HUDCO during the last three years for the development work in the urban areas, alongwith the details thereof in North-East Region, particularly in Assam;

(b) the amount provided by HUDCO and the rate of interest at which it has been provided for construction of houses in private sector; and

(c) the number of people who have got such loan in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) During the last three years, Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) has sanctioned 52 housing schemes with project cost of Rs. 652.77 crore and loan component of Rs. 408.69 crore in the North Eastern Region. In addition, 12 urban infrastructure schemes with total project cost of Rs. 205.32 crore and HUDCO loan component of Rs. 116.00 crore have been sanctioned. Details of loan sanctioned by HUDCO for housing and urban infrastructure schemes in Assam and other North Eastern States during the period 1996-97 to 1998-99 are as under:—